

Old Perry County Court House
West Corner of Town Square
(Corner of Columbus and Main Streets)
Somerset
Perry County
Ohio

HABS No. 0-412

HABS
OHIO
64-50M
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OLD PERRY COUNTY COURT HOUSE

HABO
0410
64-50M

Location: West corner of Town Square (Corner of Columbus and Main Streets), Somerset, Perry County, Ohio.

Present Owner: Occupied by City of Somerset offices on 99-year lease from Perry County, Somerset, Ohio.

Brief Statement of Significance: This late Federal style court house was erected in 1829, and is used to house the offices of the city government of Somerset.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Continuous ownership by Perry County, even since movement of county seat to New Lexington in 1857.
2. Date of erection: 1829.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Extra doors cut in court house building for barbershop, library and American Legion Hall on second floor. 1846 view shows separate courthouse and jail. The hall is a former auditorium extended over the space between jail and courthouse and over the former jail. A part of the old jail is a women's restroom, another part houses a fire engine; two cells may still be seen.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: Historical Collections of Ohio, Henry Howe, 1888, Vol. II, pages 384-386--includes sketch of the old courthouse.
References: A History of Perry County, Clement L. Martzoff, 1902.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Courthouse of Perry County from 1829-1857. The courthouse stands on the highest elevation in the county -- see page 464, The Ohio Guide, WPA Writers Project.

Only remaining courthouse of some 40 courthouses of similar style sketched by Henry Howe in his 1846 edition

of Historical Collections of Ohio, (with exception of abandoned courthouse at Chester, Ohio, ca. 1820).

Cost of courthouse - \$6,600.00; cost of jail joined to courthouse in 1848 - \$6,195.92. County seat removed to New Lexington in January 1857, after almost ten years of political bickering,--page 133, History of Perry County by Clement L. Martzoff, 1902.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

Prepared by Prof. Perry E. Borchers
June 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building is the best remaining example of some forty early Federal style court houses in Ohio sketched in 1846 by Henry Howe (Historical Collections of Ohio). The exterior proportions of the facade are good.
2. Condition of Fabric: Cupola shows lean. Chimneys recently replaced by order of State Fire Marshall.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories with cupola; 45' x 42' originally--now connected to 42' x 42' building originally used as jail.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Brick.
4. Chimneys: Replaced about three years ago. Former chimneys had a pattern of corbelled bricks and showed separate flues.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Central doorway is original. New doorways lead to American Legion Hall on second floor and to barbershop and library. One doorway to a jail remains. There is an iron door to this and two cell doors of strap iron.

- b. Windows and shutters: Wood, double hung.

6. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof, rising to original cupola, which has developed a slight lean. Asphalt shingles replace what was probably slate originally.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Wood trim.
- c. Dormers: None.—Wood cupola with slate roof.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

- 1. Floor Plans: The floor plan has been completely altered and subdivided and has neither organization nor attraction at present.
- 2. Stairways: Wood, along interior southwest wall, leading in an excessive straight run to second floor auditorium.
- 3. Flooring: Wood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Wood.
- 6. Trim: Wood; nondescript.
- 7. Hardware: Iron, nondescript, except for welded strap iron cell doors and barred windows of jail.
- 8. Lighting: Electricity.
- 9. Heating: Stoves.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: Faces southeast on Town Square formed by intersection of Columbus Street and Main Street. Side of courthouse and jail faces on Columbus Street.
- 2. Enclosures: None.
- 3. Outbuildings: None.

4. Walks, driveways etc.: Wide paved area in front of old Courthouse is used for parking by the Chief of Police.
5. Landscaping: None.

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Addendum To
Old Perry County Courthouse
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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Data pages 1 through 4 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 5.

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One survey control contact print per plate; survey control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-602L

SE FACADE

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-602R *

SE FACADE

Left and right overlap: 80%

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-603L

SE FACADE

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-603R *

SE FACADE

Left and right overlap: 80%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-605L *	NORTH CORNER
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-605R	NORTH CORNER
	Left and right overlap: 70%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-606L	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-606R (607L) *	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
	Left and right overlap: 75%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-607R (608L)	NE FACADE
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-607L (606R)	NE FACADE
	Left and right overlap: 40%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-608L (607R) *	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-608R (609L)	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
	Left and right overlap: 45%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-609L (608R)	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-609R *	NE FACADE (Diapositive enlargement)
	Left and right overlap: 55%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-610L	PLAQUE ABOVE MAIN DOOR (Diapositive enlargement)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-610R *	PLAQUE ABOVE MAIN DOOR (Diapositive enlargement)
	Left and right overlap: 95%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-611L *

JAIL WINDOWS, NW FACADE
(Diapositive enlargement)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-611R

JAIL WINDOWS, NW FACADE
(Diapositive enlargement)

Left and right overlap: 95%

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-612L *

JAIL CORRIDOR
(Diapositive enlargement)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-612R

JAIL CORRIDOR
(Diapositive enlargement)

Left and right overlap: 75%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

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